

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 1, line 8, with the following amended sentence:

This application is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. ~~08/420,670~~ 08/420,672, filed April 12, 1995.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

In some embodiments, each of the oligonucleotides is about 9 to 25 nucleotides in length. In some embodiments, the first and second oligonucleotides are complementary to tandem regions of the target nucleic acid separated by 0 to 3 bases. In some embodiments, at least one of the oligonucleotides is modified. In ~~[[at]]~~ some embodiments, at least one of the oligonucleotides contains at least one non-phosphodiester internucleoside linkage. In some embodiments, at least one of the oligonucleotides contains at least one phosphorothioate internucleoside linkage.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 44, line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

The effect of the antisense oligonucleotides on the replication of HIV-1 during an acute infection was determined. The test system is a modification of the standard cytopathic effect (CPE)-based MT-2 cell assay (Posner et al. (1991) *J. Immunol.* **146**:4325; Pawels et al. (1988) *J. Virol. Methods* **20**:309; Mosmann (1983) *J. Immunol. Methods* **65**:55). Briefly, serial dilutions of antisense oligonucleotides synthesized as described above, or the combinations of such oligonucleotides, were prepared in 50 μ M L-glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 μ g/ml streptomycin~~[[I]]~~, in triplicate, in 96-well plates. Virus~~[[,]]~~ (HIV-1 IIIB originally obtained from Dr. Robert Gallo, NCI (Popovic et al. (1984) *Science* **224**:497) and propagated in H9 cells (Gazdar et al. (1980) *Blood* **55**:409) by the method of Vujcic (*J. Infect. Dis.* (1988) **157**:1047)), diluted to contain a 90% cytopathic effect (CPE) dose of virus in 50 μ l, was added followed by 100 μ l of 4×10^5 /ml MT-2 cells (Harada et al. (1985) *Science* **229**:563) in complete medium.

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The plates were incubated at 37°C in 5% CO₂, for 5 days. 3-[4, 5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2, 5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide; thiazoyl blue (MTT) dye (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) was added and quantitated at OD₅₄₀-OD₆₉₀ as described (Posner et al. (1991) *J. Immunol.* **146**:4325). Percent viral inhibition was calculated by the formula: (experimental-virus control)/(medium control-virus control) x 100.